



The Khmer Khronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter
for Immanuel Lutheran Church and Beyond,
Snor Village, Puok District
Siem Reap / SR Province, Cambodia
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Immanuel Lutheran Church
Snor

Any Day Could be Christmas

December is a festive month in many parts of the world. Even outside the borders of this continent the 'red' outfits and decorations appear in so many places. It's a bit strange to hear 'Feliz Navidad' in an Asian country at the expat market or as you walk down the street, with the music emanating from a business, but it happens all the time. Feliz Navidad is a 'worldly' song, no doubt.

Oft times I see the same red stuff we view here at our local Dollar Tree or Meijer store, as if I am seeing the overruns from the factories and sweat shops. (Which is probably true).

Being in the US this December has reminded me of the 'real' reason for the season, that is holding its grip on the real season in spite of the mantra seen so very often out there in the presnt.

It's actually therapeutic to be reground and renewed, walking through the Advent season. It is never old.

I feel like a sheep, knowing my Shepherd is leading me through each and every day. I am in His flock. I like being one of His sheep.

Additionally, I will be honored to celebrate 75 years of life this month as well. That, at times, astounds me. As I look back to all those years and the history it has made, it has shown me my future. I certainly did not plan any of this, but it grounds me in knowing where I am heading. I cannot take it lightly. Through these lens I have been a part of or have seen more wonders than I can count or imagine.

And now, is a reminder that He comes to each of us one more time, this cherished Christmas season, this babe in the manger. "Come they told me, pa

rum pum pum pum. A new born King to see, pa pum pum pum.” We get to 'see' this one more time.

May each who read this embrace the greatness it holds on a personal note. Be grateful knowing you are a sheep in His flock.

Merry Christmas.

Life on the Farm....Behind the Church

The southwest monsoon season from May into November is now over. There was a lot of rain and a lot of humidity in those six months. While we, in the north would think that this time of the year is not very welcomed, consider that these are the months you, if you lived in an Asian farming area, you would need to raise your crops (like rice), grow fish at the base of the rice paddies, and plan and start to grow a garden to feed your family, and provide an income from the residuals. It is also the time to bring on those farm babies and fatten them to go to market, and a time to capture as much water as you can in clay urns to store for the other six months of the year, to manage your home during those dry days.

Sometime in November is an important time of the year for the Khmer people, which corresponds with the end of the rainy season. That time, country wide,

is a boat festival called Bon Om Touk. It is one of the largest celebrations of the year (known as the 'water festival') that began back in the 13th century. It happens on the full moon of the Buddhist month of Kadeem, when the full moon is supposed to bring good luck that can lead to an abundant harvest.

Celebrations occur everywhere throughout the country. There are massive boat races when there is water available, but if not so, there are parties, singing, and fireworks and good times.

In 2018 George and I sat on the banks of the Siem Reap River for a few days and watched the amazing long boat races. I shouted for the girls teams. :) Street food was everywhere, and so were the trinkets. And hordes of folks.



2018 on the Siem Reap river.

Anyway, this is the first full year for the farm in operation, and it was late

getting started as the rains lasted longer. I expect it to be a difficult start as the ground is very lumpy, full of rocks, and very unleveled. (I step slowly and carefully). And yet I've seen more instances that folks who have land to farm miraculously transform it into a gorgeous field of veggies. I presume that takes time to get there, sore arms and backs, and a few blisters along the way.



(George would call this device a Japanese water buffalo (buffalo pull the plows here, this is the auto replacement).

Stay tuned for the latest on the farm as it matures and celebrates its first full year of operation.

English in Action

Pastor Ravy continues to teach these eager learners English through his Hope School. I consider it a privilege to be a part of this ministry with Ravy. He also does Lutheran Hour ministry radio broadcasting in the province, with what I understand is a growing audience. He is a dynamic servant. He would like to expand ministry now into his community beyond the school itself. Perhaps that will get a start in the new year while I am there.



Lest any of you who could muster over 30 hours to get here, you are so welcome to come and see God's handiwork through his people here. Your English skills alone, to just sit and share yourself with those who cross your path in the day to day life there will grip your heart.

The general church has grown from 1/2% to what I am told is over 6% in our years here. It's the daily life that teaches each of us so very much not only about the heart of His work here, but also His using us in that work. His love knows no boundaries. You

will go home with a global perspective on what impact each of you have had over the years in partnering with this ministry.

Thank you.



Knee Thoughts

Praise and prayers for the ongoing farm development and english school community.

Prayers for the local community to prosper.

Praise and prayers for sharing His love message to everyone sent our way.

Prayers for the journey ahead with many spinning plates of service.

Prayers for a long term visa approval.

Thank you so much !

Giving Page

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Pastor Samuel and Sophana's youngest is now in school. She is the little one second from the right with glasses on. She wanted to go to school a year ago and made that well known to all of us. She will have to deal with some adjustment in her new chapter of life as she is the youngest of the three and a girl as well. Oft times she rules the tempo at home.